The Bible & Daily Living

Judah's fate is sealed

By William L. Trimyer
JUDAH'S FATE IS SEALED
Lesson for August 26, 1984
Bible Study Passages: II Kings 24:20-25:6, 8-12

INTRODUCTION

This lesson marks the end of our three-month study of the decline and fall of Israel and Judah. These two nations experienced the divine judgment of God for their history of disobedience. The lessons that can be learned from Israel and Judah are numerous. Our nation should take stock of the events that brought about the fall and exile of Israel and Judah.

We occasionally lose sight of the reality that God still works in history. We may easily assume that God has "walked off the job" and left the world to run on its own accord. But God has not abandoned our world, and neither has he abandoned you and me. A sign in my younger son's room says, "Be patient with me; God isn't finished with me yet."

God isn't finished with his creation nor his creatures. He continues to be concerned for our individual lives through intervention. He is mindful of the struggles through which we pass. God is concerned that our lives be full and rewarding, and if we seek his guidance we will discover that God weaves his good purposes throughout our life.

JERUSALEM OVERTHROWN [II Kings 24:20-25:1-5]

Following Josiah's reform the nation Judah began its downhill decline. Josiah's three sons became puppets in the hands of the Egyptians. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon lead his armies against Jerusalem and beseiged her beautiful walls. Many of the people surely felt that God had foresaken their city. They denied their contribution to the decline of their city.

The fall of Jerusalem is not a pretty story. War is never pretty! The people of Judah experienced famine and defeat. Gone was their lands and home. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to overthrow a nation that followed in the way of evil.

BABYLONIAN VICTORY [II Kings 25:6-12]

Jerusalem was stripped of its honorable place in history. The Babylonian army destroyed the city and looted its treasures. Zedekiah, who was the last king over Judah, tried to escape Nebuchadnezzar's army, but he was captured, forced to watch two of his sons die, and then he was blinded and carried away into exile.

The people of Jerusalem were deported into Babylonia. They were forced to leave their homes and possessions and take up living in a strange new land.

Gedeliah was made governor over the remnant in Judah. He encouraged the people to submit and live. From our reading we know that Jeremiah the prophet called the exiles to live in Babylon and plant gardens, build homes, and have children. He knew these exiles would spend seventy years there before returning to their homeland. Only their children would experience the return. Most of the adults would never see their homeland again.

The grim story of Judah does not end without hope. The people of Judah would one day return to rebuild their city and their lives.

Hope is essential for life's harsh realities. We can believe that with God's help and our faithfulness we can rebuild our "devastated city" and mend our brokenness. With God's help and our belief we can experience healing.

1. What lessons stand out for you in our study of Israel and Judah?
2. What do you believe about God's involvement in history and human life?
3. When did you last feel that God intervened in your life?

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP(.

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Our Lady of Peace

Catholic history reviewed

More than two years ago in March of 1982, the Catholic Community of Appomattox County calebrated the completion of their church building located just south of the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park on route 627.

Sunday services are held at 11:30 a.m. and usually Mass is held on Friday at 12:15 p.m. A goal of the church is to offer a place of worship for those with a Catholic tradition in Appomattox County.

"We are seeking," said a spokesman for the church, "in the words of Pope Paul VI 'to be a handful of Christians in the midst of our community who by the witness of our way of life, stir up irrestible questions in the hearts of those who see how we live. Why are they like this? Why do they live this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst?'"

The emerging tradition at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church is one of a much greater interdependence and intimacy than in the large Catholic parish to which many are accustomed.

"If you are of the Catholic tradition and are open to seeking and sharing together in a small community, we invite you to worship with us. A great renewal and revival has been occuring in the Catholic Church in the past 15 years or more and the Good News about Jesus is at the heart of this renewal. So, if you have been away, take another look. If you are not attending any church service and would like to inquire about this journey of faith, no matter your past tradition, we invite you to visit," said Jim Collins, member of the church.

A few months ago the Catholic community was called into a prison ministry at the Buckingham Correctional Center. Now six to eight visit monthly with the pastor of the church.

"This fledgling ministry is fruitfull. Pastor Kirch and the lay men and women share Jesus and the difference he makes in their lives and the difference possible even in prison, when Jesus is invited in. Yet, it is the visitors who are very blessed. We are welcomed, appreciated and invited back again and again. Indeed the presence of the Holy Spirit is most apparent," said Collins.

A special eccumenical praise and worship service will be held at 1 p.m. each Sunday after lunch at the church. This is in addition to the regular services and is intended as a more informal, open service for praise and intercession. If you have special prayer needs, you are invited to come for prayer. Everyone is welcome.

Registration day slated

Registration day for the Appomattox Seventh-Day Adventist Church School will be Aug. 23.

Parents may bring prospective students to the school located at Court and Moses Streets between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. School will formally begin at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 4.

There are some openings still available for parents in the community to enroll their students in a school where a Christian atmosphere is maintained.

For information call Mr. Leon Miles at 561-2660 at the school or 248-6909 at home in the evenings.

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[illegible]

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WORSHIP

Zion Baptist news

A baptismal service was held at Zion Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Five children were baptized.

A large crowd attended the regular morning worship service at 11 a.m. at Zion Baptist Church. The Rev. Lewis preached a challenging message that was enjoyed by all present. Beautiful music was provided by the Young Adult Choir and the Sunshine Choir. At the close of the morning worship service holy communion was served.

The Bible and prayer service usually held on Thursday night will be discontinued until further notice.

The Senior Ushers Board will meet next Sunday at 11 a.m.

All the sick are improving. Mrs. G. W. Wiggins has returned home from the hospital and is improving.

The revival held at the church last week was a success.

The Sunshine Choir have their new robes, sponsored by Mrs. Ella Edward and Mrs. Nannie Johnson. We wish them much success.

The Sunshine Choir enjoyed a picnic at Wade's on Saturday at 4 p.m. hosted by Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Alto Hendrick of Prospect was recently married to Mr. Martin Womack of Pamplin. We extend our congratulations and welcome them to our neighborhood.

Lamaze class offered

The Foundation for Christian Medical Care in Drakes Branch will offer a six-week course in prepared childbirth.

The course will begin Monday, Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Foundation office building, located on Main Street in Drakes Branch.

Expecting mothers who are at least five months pregnant will be taught the Lamaze method of childbirth by Mrs. Corrine Yeltoh, R.N. She will be assisted by Dr. Charles Davis and Mr. Lee Copeland.

The Lamaze instruction prepares the mother for birth through special exercises, breathing techniques, counseling, learning hospital routine and infant feeding. To take part in this course, the mother must be accompanied by her husband or friend. Completion of the course will permit the husband to stay with his wife during labor and delivery.

No one will be refused entry into the course because of inability to pay the modest fee.

For additional information, call 568-4281.

Henry to lead seminar

Dr. Gordon Henry, nationally known Bible teacher and conference speaker, will lead a prayer seminar for adults and youth at Yellow Branch Baptist Church this Sunday.

The seminar will begin at 10 a.m. and recess at noon. It will reconvene at 3 p.m. and dismiss at 8 p.m.

Guests are invited and should bring a sack lunch for the evening meal. Drinks will be provided by the church.

Dr. Henry is former vice president for academic affairs of Liberty Baptist College, and former president of Northeastern Bible College. He is now engaged in full time prayer seminar and evangelistic conference work.

Inspirational services held at Galilee Baptist Church

Inspirational services were held at Galilee this past Sunday morning. Pastor Davis delivered the message and the Youth Services Singers rendered music.

On Sunday afternoon, Pastor Davis and the Senior Choir were special guests for the Homecoming services at Chestnut Grove.

All interested church singers and musicians are invited to join the Appomattox Choral Society. Our first meeting will be held on Monday, September 3, at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Madison Fleshman of Baltimore, Md. attended the funeral services of Mr. James Fleshman, brother of Madison Fleshman.

We are very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sister Mozell Forrest. She was the sister of Mrs. Louise Harvey. Mrs. Forrest passed away after attending Homecoming at Chestnut Grove.

Let us continue in prayer one for another. Remember, God can ease the most troubled soul. Trust Him today.

At Pamplin UMC

Flea market scheduled

The Great Pamplin Community Flea Market will be held Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pamplin United Methodist Church.

Anyone interested in selling items at the market is asked to contact Jane Wright at 248-5517, or Grace Covington at 248-6295.

The flea market is sponsored by the Pamplin United Methodist Church.

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Rocks news

shop Appomattox

By CASSIE BALDWIN

Rocks, Aug. 18 - Summer is about gone. Fall is approaching. Vacation will soon be over.

There was a nice crowd at Rocks last Sunday with a few visitors.

Liberty Baptist Church had a big day last Sunday. It was their 150th anniversary.

A number of people from Rocks Baptist Church were at Liberty last Sunday afternoon. Rocks was Liberty's mother church.

A very sad gloom was cast over Appomattox County on Monday with news that our beloved friend, Mrs. Edna Covington had passed away at Virginia Baptist Hospital after a long illness. Sympathy goes out to her loved ones. She will be greatly missed everywhere. She was the oldest member Hollywood Baptist Church had.

A speedy recovery is wished Mr. Ed Mason, Sr., who had surgery Thursday at a hospital in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Roach went to Appomattox High School on Thursday night to hear Dr. Tim Lee, who spoke there.

[Continued on page 12]

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